United Nations A/58/838-S/2004/432

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 June 2004

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 28, 40 (f), 91 (a) and 156

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Macroeconomic policy questions: International trade and development

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 8 June 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward to you a text of a joint statement, signed by the Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at a meeting of the heads of States of the organization Central Asian Cooperation held in Astana on 28 May 2004 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 28, 40 (f), 91 (a) and 156, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mr. Kainarbek A. **Toktomushev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

(*Signed*) H.E. Mr. Rashid K. **Alimov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) H.E. Mr. Alisher V. **Vohidov**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations

04-38285 (E) 150604 150604

Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan

A meeting of the heads of State of the Organization of Central Asian Cooperation (CAC) was held on 28 May 2004 in Astana.

The Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, after a thorough discussion of the question of developing cooperation within CAC,

Having exchanged views on current international and regional problems,

Motivated by the desire to develop multilateral cooperation on the basis of the principles of mutual assistance and respect for each other's interests,

Make the following statement:

1. The heads of State, noting the progress in strengthening cooperation within the Organization of Central Asian Cooperation, confirm their desire to pursue the consistent and steady expansion of the integration process in every area of regional cooperation, through the utilization of experience acquired and taking account of new conditions.

To that end, the existing practice of maintaining regular political contacts at the highest level, conducting meetings of heads of Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs and promoting relations between parliaments and business circles will be actively developed and new cooperation mechanisms and instruments will be introduced in order to ensure the speedy resolution of issues on the CAC agenda.

2. In view of the Russian Federation's historical and traditional links with the CAC countries and its role and significance in ensuring the security and stability of the region and the steady economic development of the Central Asian countries, the parties have unanimously decided in favour of the Russian Federation's full participation in CAC activities.

3. The parties declare their intention to phase in the introduction of a Central Asian Common Market (CACM) in order to optimize and rationally utilize their very rich natural, water-energy, raw-mineral resources, and human potential, ensure the steady development of the CAC countries, establish the conditions necessary to attract foreign investment and introduce guarantees for the functioning of the market.

4. The heads of State emphasized that the development of multifaceted trade and economic cooperation is a priority for CAC.

Noting the existing potential for the development of border trade amongst the CAC member States, the Presidents have instructed their Governments to submit to expert scrutiny, before the end of the third quarter of 2004, the draft agreement

prepared by Kazakhstan on the basic principles of cooperation in border trade between the member States of the Organization of Central Asian Cooperation.

5. The heads of State note with approval the progress made in implementing agreements on developing plans for the establishment of water-energy, food and transport consortia and have instructed the National Coordinators' Committee, together with international financial institutions and the relevant working groups of the parties, to complete work in that regard by the fourth quarter of 2004.

6. The heads of State, noting with approval the results of the business forum held in Almaty on 6 May 2004, at which the progress in implementing the decisions adopted at the business forums held in Tashkent and Osh was discussed, emphasized that the involvement of the real sector of the economy in the CAC integration process constituted the basis for enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation.

7. The heads of State emphasized that the Agreement between the CAC member States, signed during the meeting, on the broadcasting of each other's television and radio programmes constituted a practical result of the progressive development of inter-State cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian field.

8. The heads of State expressed satisfaction at the regularity of inter-parliamentary contacts and gave a high assessment to the outcomes of the second meeting of parliamentarians of the CAC member States, held in Almaty on 5 May 2004, at which the establishment and development of parliamentarianism in the States of the region, the prospects for developing inter-parliamentary cooperation and new forms of inter-State interaction with a view to strengthening peace and stability in the region were discussed.

The heads of State note the appropriateness of the decision that has been adopted on establishing an inter-parliamentary cooperation institute involving representative groups in each of the parliaments of the CAC member States, which they consider an important step towards instituting practical measures for harmonizing national legislations in order to aid the integration process within CAC.

9. The heads of State attaching great importance to ensuring security and stability in the region and in the world as a whole and condemning acts of aggression, separatism and terrorism, in all their forms and manifestations, which threaten the territorial integrity and security of States, confirm their resolve to enhance cooperation both among foreign policy departments and among law enforcement bodies and special services in order to step up the struggle not only against terrorists but also against the ideology that creates them.

The adoption of the regulations governing the work of the conference of heads of security services, law enforcement agencies and the structures for protecting the State borders of the member States of the Organization of Central Asian Cooperation will constitute an important step towards enhancing cooperation in combating contemporary challenges and threats.

10. The heads of State noted, in particular, that the consolidation of peace and stability in Afghanistan and the establishment of good-neighbourly relations with that country are in keeping with the fundamental interests of the Central Asian countries. Joint efforts to restore Afghanistan's economy and infrastructure will contribute substantially to ensuring regional security and stability.

The heads of State reaffirmed their desire to involve Afghanistan in the region's integration process, in the first instance by using the combined potential of the Organization of Central Asian Cooperation member States to carry out projects to restore the Afghan economy.

The heads of State, therefore, instruct the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CAC member States to discuss this question at its next meeting.

11. The Presidents expressed satisfaction at the outcomes of the meeting, which had taken place in the traditional atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and trust.

The heads of State expressed their gratitude for the warm and cordial reception accorded to them by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, N. Nazarbaev, on the hospitable soil of Kazakhstan.

N. Nazarbaev
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

A. Akaev
President of the Kyrgyz Republic

E. Rakhmonov
President of the Republic of Tajikistan

I. Karimov
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Astana, 28 May 2004